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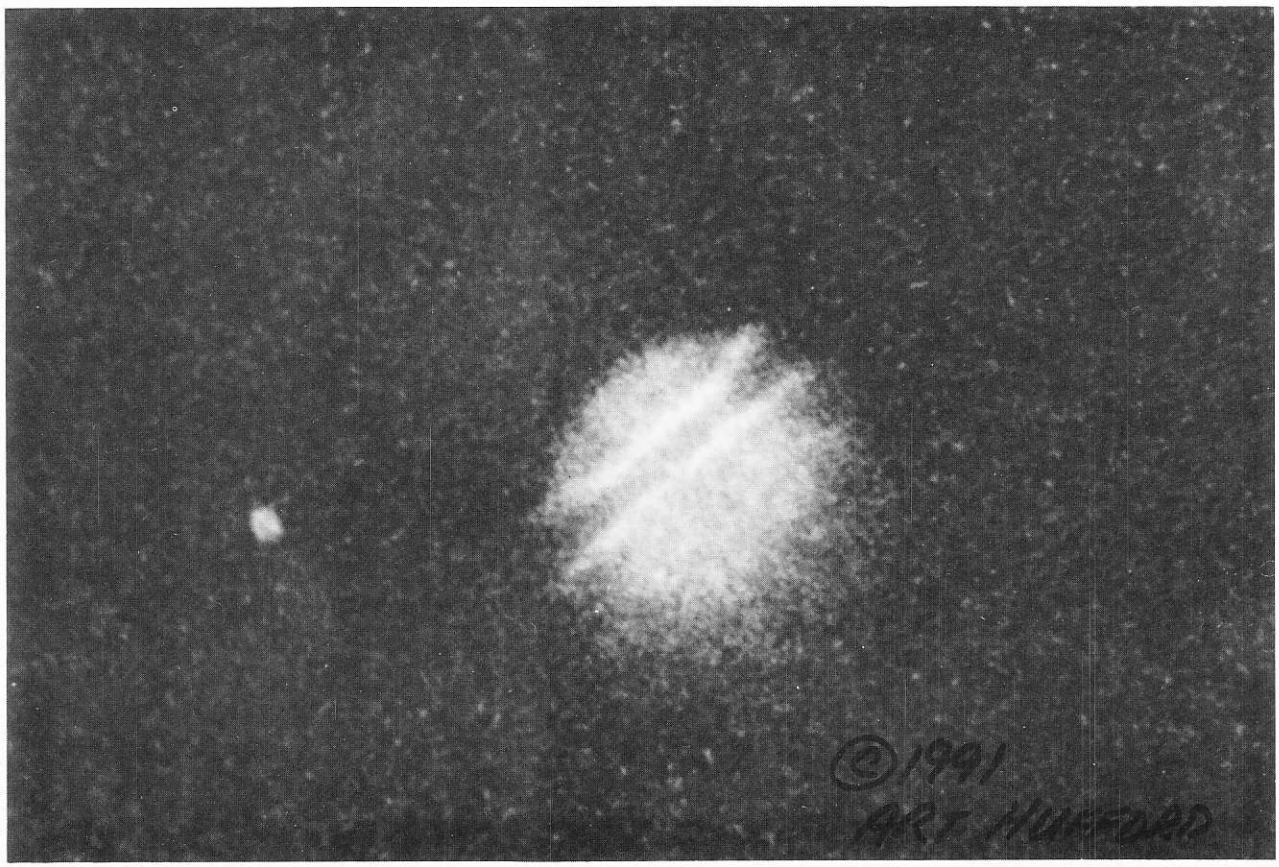

Photo taken at southwest end of Pensacola Bay Bridge, Gulf Breeze, Florida, June 20, 1991. © 1991 Art Hufford.

The Gulf Breeze lights

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

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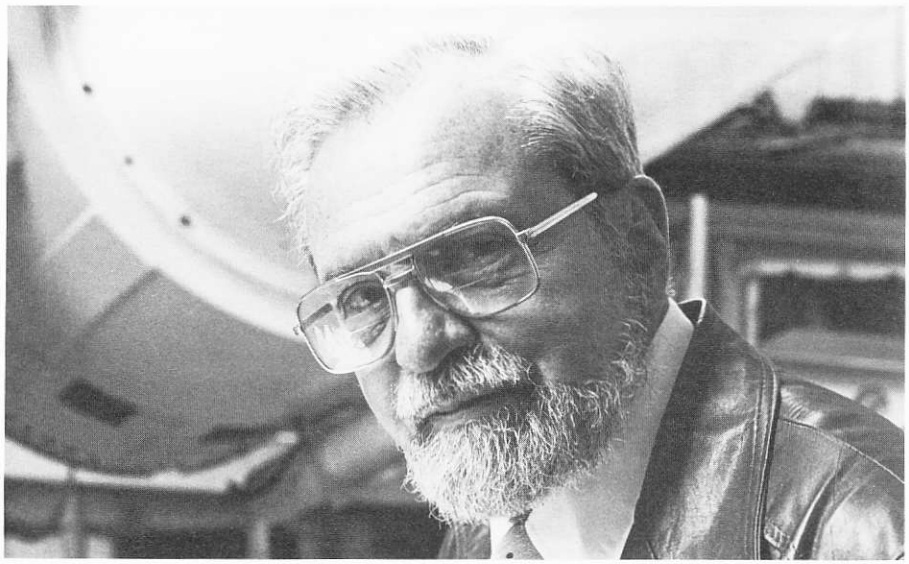

J. Allen Hynek
1910 - 1986

It is the persistence of the UFO reports, and the contents of those reports, that constitute the UFO phenomenon; it is this phenomenon that must be studied and its validity judged independently of any hypothesis of its origin. To do otherwise is simply not honest science.

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EDITORIAL

Mutilated reality

Jerome Clark

Recently, in the course of work on another project, I had occasion to reread some of the literature on cattle mutilations. I wish I could ask you, "Remember them?" To many enthusiasts cattle mutilations remain not just a living issue but an assumed, even crucial, aspect of the UFO phenomenon. It was out of the mutilations milieu that ufology's most pernicious current myths—what wags are now calling the "dark side hypothesis"—took root and grew. Mutology's most tireless promoter spoke last summer at what is generally thought to be ufology's major annual conference.

We would do well to remember that the evidence for a UFO/cattle mutilation link is only slightly better than nonexistent. In fact, the evidence that anomalous cattle deaths are taking place at all is itself disputed and ambiguous. The small number of instances that veterinary pathologists, the only persons trained to make educated determinations in this area, have judged to be genuinely out of the ordinary give no aid and comfort to those positing extraordinary explanations. The "surgically precise" cuts of mutological lore seem to be mythical, and the culprits, from all available evidence, are pranksters, sadists, and cultists.

Those who would dispute the above analysis have yet to demonstrate why we skeptics should feel any other way. The absence of evidence will not, of course, stop the circulation and inflation of the legends. Some years ago newspapers bandied about the figure of 10,000 mutilations, which Daniel Kagan and Ian Summers, authors of *Mute Evidence* (1984), traced to mutilations buff Howard Burgess, who admitted to having invented it out of thin air. Kagan and Summers reported that in 1979, at the peak of mutilation mania, the rate of cattle deaths was entirely normal. Statistics offered no support whatever for the belief that unnatural predators were killing the animals on any measurable scale. Not long ago a newspaper noted that the number of mutilated cattle is now up to 700,000. We can safely assume, I think, that this figure is as hallucinatory as the earlier, more modest one.

It is certainly not true, as the cliché has it, that we know no more about the UFO phenomenon than we did in 1947 (if that were the case, what would be the point of UFO research?), but it is true that some things some people think they know aren't so. UFO-linked cattle mutilations are one of them. It's time that they be relegated to the same boneyard where the carcasses of the Bermuda Triangle, ancient astronauts, the Allende letters, and the Aztec saucer crash lie.

Whatever its ultimate cause turns out to be, the abduction phenomenon has far more substance than cattle mutilations, and it richly merits the serious attention it is receiving and will continue to receive. At the same time we must remember that at this early stage of inquiry the phenomenon poses more questions than it answers and that considerably more has been claimed about it than has been documented.

In saying as much I am not singling out abduction proponents. The phenomenon's critics, with a handful of honorable exceptions (nearly all of whom have argued their case in *IUR*), have distinguished themselves so far mostly by their own kinds of inflated claims. (For specifics, see relevant issues of *Skeptical Inquirer*.) To date much skeptical writing consists largely of variations on the hypnotic-confabulation theme, always predicated on the assumption that such an explanation has never occurred to ufologists (when in reality, as the UFO literature attests, ufologists have been concerned with the question ever since the Hill case emerged in the mid-1960s) and on the pretense that Thomas E. Bullard's devastating falsification of the confabulation hypothesis (*Journal of UFO Studies* , new series, vol. 1) never happened. Abduction debunkers have as conscientiously avoided Bullard's work as mutilation proponents have ignored Kagan and Summers'.

On the other hand, those on the other side have sometimes been less than candid in acknowledging how thin their documentation is in some important regards. For example, though a number of claimed abduction-related phantom pregnancies are recorded, so far not a single medical case history documenting such an event has been published. Last year, when veteran ufologist Ann Druffel investigated one such case in California (*MUFON UFO Journal*, November 1991) and interviewed the woman's physician, she found a prosaic explanation. It does not necessarily follow that, when properly investigated, *all* such claims will be mundanely accounted for, but until the documentation emerges, Druffel's findings ought to give all of us a healthy dose of caution.

Likewise, as Keith Basterfield shows in his article in this issue of *IUR*, so far the scientific analyses of the few recovered "implants" available to us have not exactly confirmed the abduction hypothesis. Again, that does not mean that no future analysis will ever do so, and there are

continued on page 10

The Gulf Breeze lights

by Bruce Maccabee

■■ **Bruce Maccabee, Ph.D., chairman of the Fund for UFO Research, is an optical physicist.**

DATE: *April 17, 1991*
TIME: *8:36 p.m.*
SCENE: *A group of people are standing in a parking area near the south end of the Pensacola Bay Bridge.*
LIGHTS!
Red UFO light turns on.
CAMERA!
Video camcorder is turned on; still cameras are ready.
ACTION!
Videocamera is running, recording the red light and nearby conversations. Fifty-nine seconds of excited conversation later:
GARY (talking to nearby witnesses): "What's going to happen in a minute, guys, this thing is going to go *flash,* real white. That's the history of it."
A second passes.
ANN: "It's white!"
The videocamera records the onset of rapid white pulsations; four more seconds pass.
ANN: "Look at that. Oh!"
Two seconds pass while video camera records intense flashes followed by the seeming ejection downward of a light from the main lighted object.
ANN: "It went red on the top and white on the bottom."

The above is not excerpted from a movie script. It happened in real life in Gulf Breeze, Florida, not quite a year ago. A man predicted what a UFO would do, and it did just that. It happened because, as Gary says, "that's the history of it."

By the time of this sighting a small group of local "UFO activists," the Gulf Breeze Research Team (GBRT), including Ann (Morrison) and Gary (Watson), had maintained an almost nightly skywatch starting around 7:30 to about 10 p.m. since November 1990. They had seen about two dozen appearances of strange red lights in the vicinity of Gulf Breeze during this period. Numerous photographs had been taken, and Bruce Morrison and others had videotaped many of the sightings. These sightings occurred during their nightly skywatch. Because the source of the light is as yet unidentified, the object can therefore be called a UFO.

During most of these sightings the UFO had been observed initially as red, or sometimes as white, in which case it immediately turned red. It would remain red for a period of many seconds to a few minutes, then suddenly change to white and then fade out or disappear. Sometimes it would return to red just before fading. Gary was aware that during the two weeks preceding April 17 the red-white UFO had already appeared four times, so he had reason to believe the red-white UFO would repeat what it had done previously.

This paper reports on sightings that took place in April 1991. In the *MUFON 1991 UFO Symposium Proceedings* I discuss those that occurred earlier, from November 1990 through March 1991. I personally witnessed one of these lights on September 16, 1991, when I saw an elliptical array of eight or nine lights suddenly appear in the sky over Gulf Breeze. An account of the sighting appears in my article "Research Team Investigates Strange Lights," *MUFON UFO Journal,* October 1991.

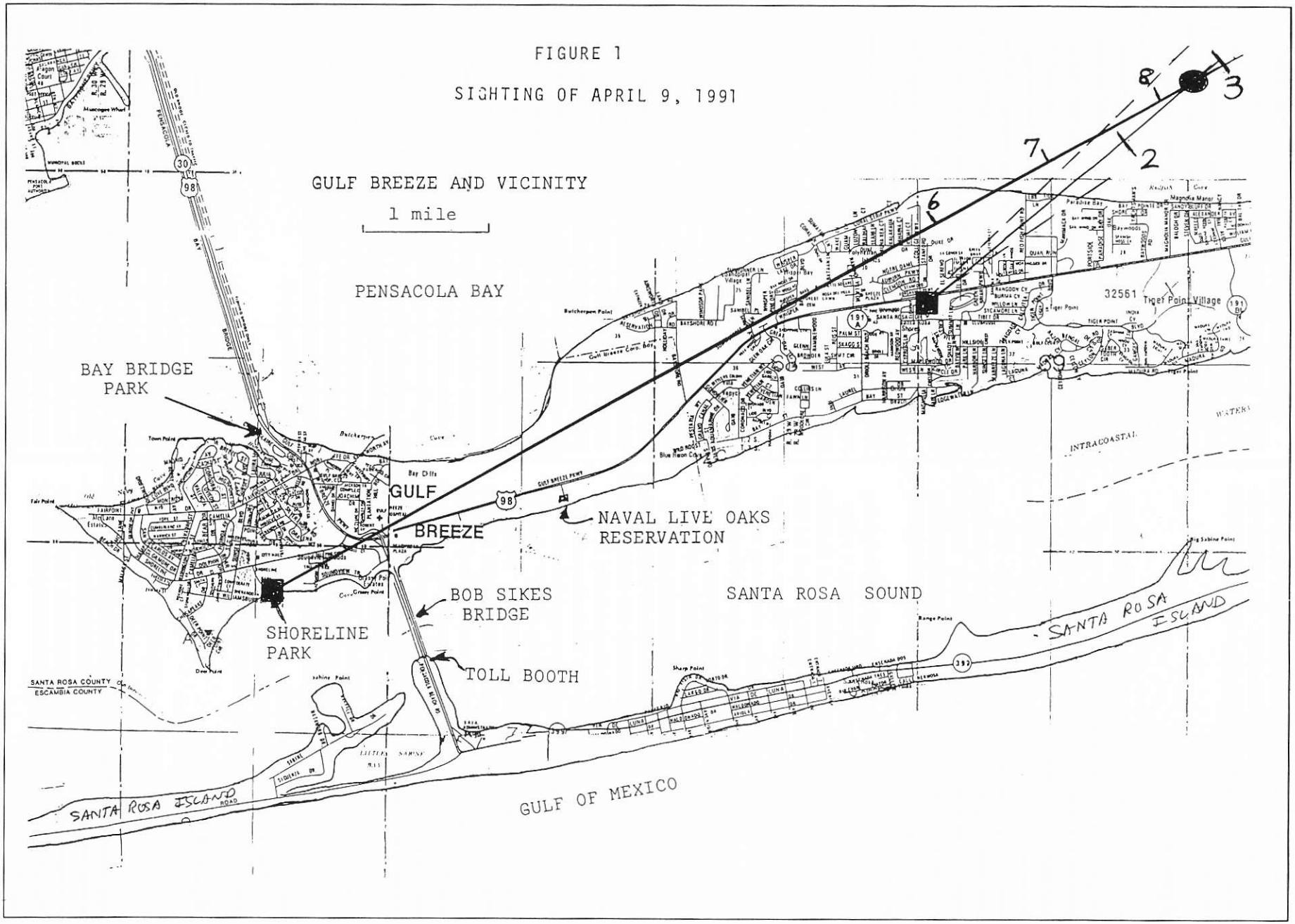
April 2

It is probably worth noting that no sighting was recorded on April 1, the day for jokes and hoaxes, even though the GBRT was watching the sky.

The first April sighting occurred on the second. Ten witnesses were at Pensacola Beach at the north end of Avenida 18 on the shore of Santa Rosa Sound observing the sky in various directions. At about 7:35 p.m. one of them spotted a red light 37 degrees above the horizon at 300 deg. azimuth (WNW), apparently over the water of Santa Rosa Sound in the direction of Gulf Breeze. This light pulsated two or three times, turned white, disappeared for 10 seconds, returned bright red for several seconds, and then disappeared. During this time it appeared to move northward a bit. One observer, using binoculars, thought she saw black spots or a stripe around the red lighted object. The videotape confirms the events of the sighting. Unfortunately, however, the television image of the UFO is distorted by brightness into a bright white spot with the color information (red) presented as a "blob" just at the lower right of the bright white spot. (Nothing spooky here; the same thing happens if the camera films the taillights of a car.) No structure is visible in the image.

FIGURE 1

SIGHTING OF APRIL 9, 1991



All one can say from the video image is that the light was bright red and then became white. The weather was clear with an 8 mph wind from the south and the temperature was in the 60s.

April 6

Four nights later the GBRT members were at the end of the pier at Shoreline Park (see Figure 1) with several persons who were not members, including an amateur astronomer. At about 8 a red light appeared to the east northeast about 20 degrees above the horizon. At first it was drifting north, and then it stopped moving. After remaining bright red and motionless for many seconds it began to decrease in brightness, then suddenly "exploded" soundlessly with a white flash while apparently ejecting white streamers. It then faded rapidly. The total sighting lasted about two minutes.

Several of the new witnesses reported their sighting to the *Gulf Breeze Sentinel*. Robert Browning, a police officer from Kentucky, reported that he was at Shoreline Park about 8 when he heard the GBRT group at the end of the pier shouting about the red light. "My son and I ran out on the pier," he said. "I looked at where they were pointing and I seen [sic] red light that looked like it hung in the sky. I watched it for a few seconds and it got intensely red then on both sides exploded in a whitish flash and there was nothing." Paul Browning wrote, "I turned around to see a pulsing red light moving upward in an arc. It stopped almost immediately and did not move. It then got extremely bright red and began fading almost completely before it turned white. Whiter than almost every star we compared it with. It seemed to burst with little trails coming off the sides of the object." Michael Robertson, the amateur astronomer, related, "Twenty degrees above the northeastern horizon a bright red light (-2 magnitude) drifts slowly to the north while pulsating non-rhythmically. As the light begins to dim, two streamers, the left brighter (3 magnitude) than the right (5 magnitude) flash from this light now turning very bright white (-3 magnitude). Then it rapidly fades and disappears. The 'streamers,' white in color, were approximately 1 degree in length and lightning-like." Two of the other "guest" witnesses reported a sighting at 7:30 before the GBRT arrived at the dock.

The weather was clear with high clouds, a 3 mph wind from the south and the temperature was in the 60s.

April 9

Three days later an important sighting of a red-white light took place. The sighting is important because the approximate location of the light was determined by triangulation by the GBRT observers and because other witnesses, who also saw it, *happened to be very close to that location.* These closer witnesses had a good view of the object.

The sighting began at about 8:10 p.m. just as the GBRT members were arriving at Shoreline Park. Ed Walters had, earlier that day, constructed an "elemuth" scope for angular *ele*vation and azi*muth* measurement. It consisted simply of a pipe on a portable stand in a mount that would allow the observer to sight the UFO light through the pipe. After the sighting was over the elevation and azimuth of the final setting of the scope (presumably at the time of disappearance of the light) could be measured accurately. Walters was walking out onto the pier to set up the scope when he saw a red light to the east. He yelled to the others, who at first looked in the wrong direction. Then some other people, including Bob Reid, quickly came out onto the pier. Walters sighted the scope toward the light, and he and Reid measured the elevation and azimuth after the sighting was over.

Fortunately several other witnesses including Ann Morrison and Gary Watson were able to see the light from the parking lot, a location about 500 feet from the elemuth scope. They noted exactly which trees they were sighting over, and subsequently the azimuth and elevation were measured.

During the sighting the light remained red for about a minute or so, turned bright white and slowly faded out. It then reappeared red for a few seconds and went out.

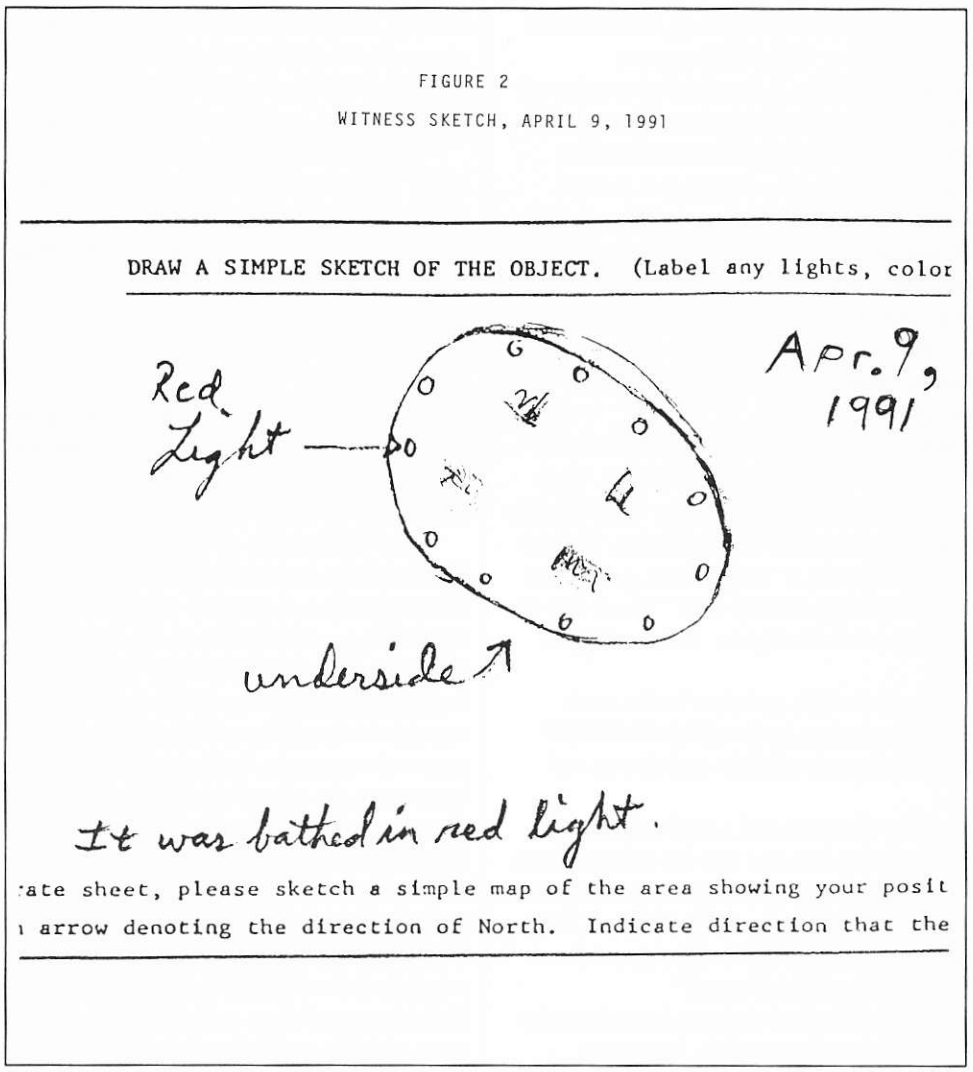
After the sighting was finished, measurements showed that object had been at an azimuth of 59 ± 1/2 degree and an elevation of 7 ± 1/2 degree as seen by the witnesses on the pier. The witnesses in the parking lot were looking along an azimuth of 60 ± 1/2 degree. (These angles were determined using basic equipment: a compass, a level, and a protractor.) Other measurements determined that the baseline of the triangle was 506 feet long at an azimuth of 151 degrees as measured from the parking lot (which is north of the end of the pier). Using these measurements and allowing for the lack of precision because of the crude instruments used, I calculated the location of the light. I found that it could have been in the range five to nine miles from the end of the pier, at 60 deg. azimuth, 7 deg. elevation. One GBRT member plotted the estimated location on a map by inadvertently used an azimuth of 30 deg. rather then 60 deg. and concluded that the UFO was north of the Gulf Breeze peninsula over the Pensacola Bay. He told this to the other members of the group.

April 10

Research Team members were again at Shoreline Park. While they were discussing the previous sighting several strangers arrived and told the GBRT that they had seen a large, red UFO the previous night shortly after 8 while they were in the K Mart parking lot just off route 98, east of Gulf Breeze. At this time GBRT members thought that the red light they had seen was over Pensacola Bay, considerably northwest of the location reported by the strangers. Hence they initially doubted that the strangers

FIGURE 2

WITNESS SKETCH, APRIL 9, 1991


DRAW A SIMPLE SKETCH OF THE OBJECT. (Label any lights, color
Red Light
Apr. 9, 1991
underside
It was bathed in red light.
:ate sheet, please sketch a simple map of the area showing your posit
1 arrow denoting the direction of North. Indicate direction that the

had actually seen something and questioned them carefully. The strangers seemed to be quite credible, however, and after they completed their story, GBRT members decided that these other witnesses probably had seen a *different* UFO. Hence they concluded that a second UFO had been in the sky on the ninth.

Not yet aware of the other witnesses, I, too, plotted the location on the map and concluded that the red-white light could have been over the northeastern part of the Gulf Breeze peninsula (see Figure 1 for distances less than nine miles from Shoreline Park). I reported the location I had found to the GBRT group, which then realized that the red light it had seen was apparently close to the K Mart witnesses after all and therefore the same UFO as the one it observed.

During the initial informal interview on April 10 and at a formal interview on April 13, these other witnesses, who wish to remain anonymous, reported the following sighting. Three persons were involved: Robert, a 58-year-old former police chief, Eleanor, his sister and a visitor to the area, and Karen, his daughter, an airline stewardess (who was not present for the interview). As the witnesses were driving east on highway 98 in their van, at a time estimated at 8 to 8:10 p.m., they noticed a large red light in the sky to the northeast. They were close to their destination (the K Mart), so Robert turned off the highway into the K Mart parking lot and stopped in a parking place.

At this time he was looking northeast over a horizon line formed by low buildings, advertising signs, and distant trees. Robert said his initial thought was of an Air Force fighter-bomber, but no wings were visible. After he stopped the van he could see that it was no airplane. He saw a rather large angular size red "something" at an elevation of about 20 degrees and an azimuth of about 50 degrees (angles based on measurements at the site). He compared the size with that of a full moon.

Eleanor said that when she first saw it she had no idea what it was but she knew it wasn't an airplane because it was stationary; nor was it a helicopter because it made no sound and was too big. She described the light as a circle of red lights, very bright with a slight glow. She could not distinguish the outer circle, which seemed to be like a ring of red fluorescent lights, from the lighting within the circle. The red glow seemed to be across the entire area of

the bottom. Toward the end of the sighting, which lasted about 1.5 minutes, she saw a white light appear.

Robert reported that to him it appeared as a series of circular lights, separated but close together. He concentrated on trying to distinguish a superstructure and, in particular, some sort of conventional airframe (wings, vertical or horizontal stabilizers). He saw nothing familiar. It appeared solid, and he saw what appeared to be a riblike structure or indentations which were made visible by reflected light from the object. He said it resembled the "skin of a blimp." He was unable to decide upon an exact shape. The closest he could come was to think that it might have been cigar-shaped.

The lights were in a circle which appeared to be on the outside and on the lower portion of the object. They were steady, not revolving or blinking. They were brighter than aircraft navigation or airfield landing lights. He had an impression of massiveness, a "very heavy, ponderous kind of weight and standing perfectly still." There was no sound, and there were no strobe lights. His drawing is shown in Figure 2.

At one time it turned white and then back to red. Then, according to his account in the official MUFON report, "It began to bank away slightly and rise up and away."

After watching for a minute and a half or so the witnesses walked the short distance into the K Mart store. As Robert put it, "Since shopping is more important than making contact with aliens we entered the K Mart. We literally turned our back on the object and entered the store. How's that for being sophisticated?"

Figure 1 shows the estimated sighting lines from the locations of the two groups of witnesses. Estimated distances from the sighting locations are also shown. The crossing of the sighting lines places the red-white light perhaps seven to nine miles from the GBRT group and 2.5 to three miles from the K Mart group. This latter distance is of particular interest since it can be combined with the angular size estimate. Robert estimated the object was the (angular) size of the full moon, which is $^1/_2$ degree. An object subtending $^1/_2$ degree at three miles distance has a dimension close to 140 feet. The estimated size changes proportionally with estimated distance. Robert may well have overestimated the angular size, but since he could see structure it is likely that the angular size was at least one milliradian ($^1/_9$ the angular size of the moon). Even if Robert had overestimated the size by a factor of 10, it would still be a substantial size (more than 10 feet in diameter).

I and other investigators have tried to explain these red-light sightings as misidentifications of flares or other man-made light sources supported on balloons, kites or aircraft, specifically helicopters. The January 8, 1990, multiple-witness/multiple-photograph sighting (which I discuss in the already-cited MUFON proceedings as well as in a paper, "Not Just Another Evening Stroll," available from the Fund for UFO Research, Box 277, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712) already showed that to be an unacceptable explanation, and this present sighting reinforces the conclusion that no balloon, kite, or helicopter-borne light could explain all of these sightings.

During the sighting the wind was from the south at 10 mph. There were scattered clouds at 2400 feet, overcast at 20,000 feet; visibility was seven miles. (Bright lights can be seen at distances much greater than the so-called visibility range.)

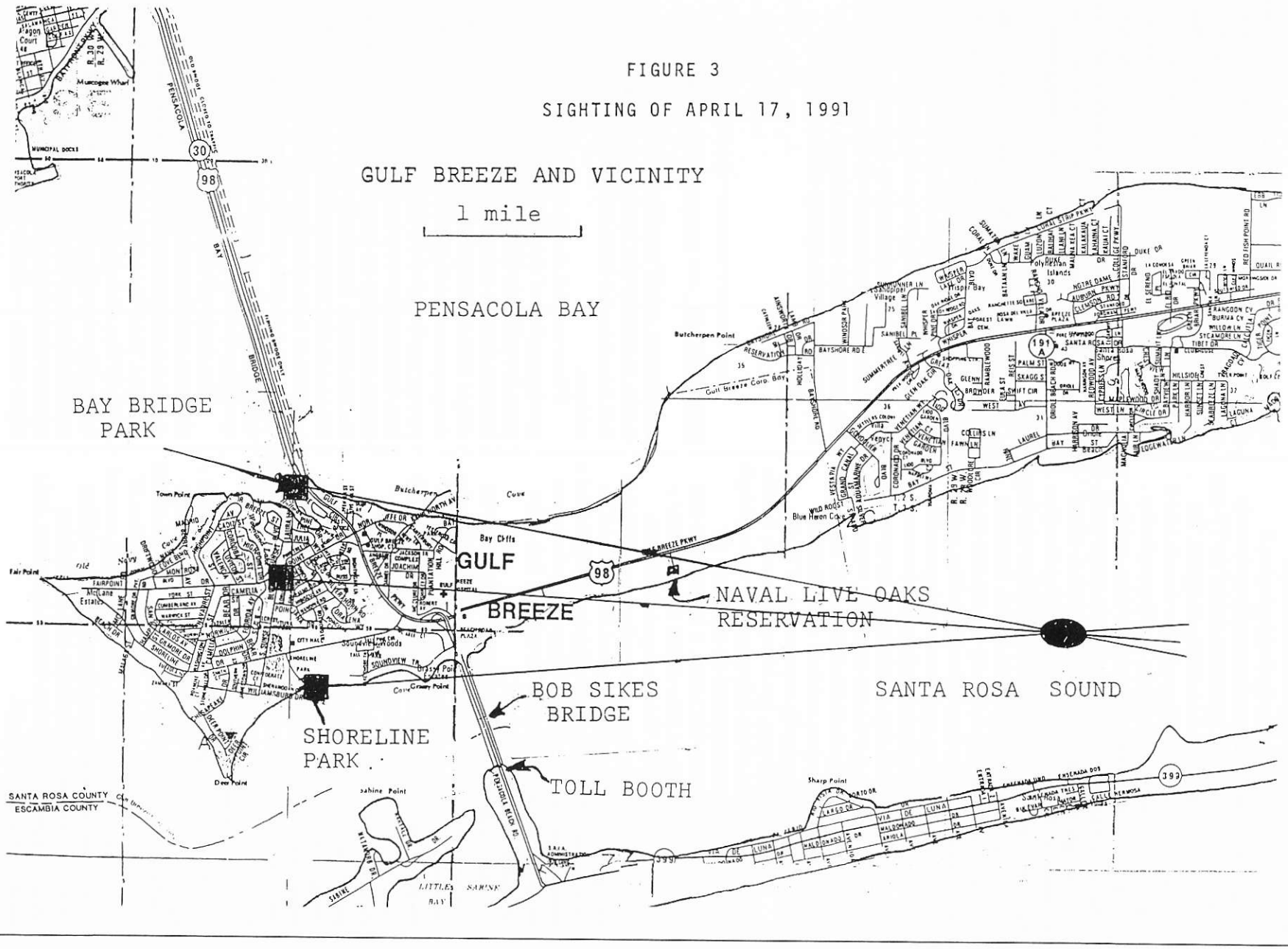
April 17

This was just another red-light sighting until, as if on command, it flashed white within a second of Gary Watson's prediction that it would change. Was that a coincidence? Of course we can never know.

The first minute of the video shows a small bright red light with the standard videocamera distortion: the red color appears as a roughly elliptical blob below the main bright image. About 60 seconds into the video and less than a second after Gary says "that's the history of it," the image begins to grow rapidly in brightness and size and appears to change to a white color. (If the image brightness were constant, the image growth would imply an increase in the size of the light source. But a fundamental characteristic of optical-imaging systems is that the size of the image increases with the brightness of the object being filmed/videotaped. Hence, at least part, and perhaps all, of the total image growth was a result of the brightness increase.) Careful inspection on a frame-by-frame bases suggests that when the light was dimmest during the flashing period there was still some red. Perhaps there were actually two light sources, a red one and a much brighter white one. In any case, the red was overwhelmed by flashes of white, some of which were so bright that they caused huge internal reflection glares (several inches across in a 14-inch monitor) in the camera lens. A graph of the image size versus frame number (at 30 frames per second) shows a nonperiodic pulsing at a high rate (up to 30 pulses/sec) superimposed on a slow growth over about three seconds. The measurements for the graph were made with the brightness reduced and contrast adjusted so that only the brightest central part of the image was visible. Under these conditions the minimum image size is about two mm (on a 14-inch monitor) while the maximum image size is an impressive 20 mm. This suggests a factor of 100, or more, increase in the light brightness from the minimum to the maximum. (If an image has a constant brightness as the diameter changes, the total amount of light hitting the camera would increase by the area ratio, which is the square of the diameter ratio, $10^2 = 100$ in this case.) At the same time the glare in the camera made a 60 mm diameter halo around the bright central image. Careful inspection shows that the bright central image has a noncircularly symmetric structure which indicates that the light source was not a tiny (totally unresolved) very bright light. Unfortunately motion distortion and camera

FIGURE 3

SIGHTING OF APRIL 17, 1991



saturation make it difficult (or impossible) to deduce the actual shape of the light source from the image.

About five seconds after the flashing begins, it abruptly ends, and a fraction of a second later the main light ejects downward, in 1/60 sec (one field of the TV scan rate), another light which immediately disappears. The original light is now red again, and a few seconds later it begins to fade and pulsate slightly. By 50 seconds after the flashing it is no longer visible in the video, and the witnesses are heard to say that they can no longer see it.

The light was viewed by two groups of non-GBRT witnesses in Gulf Breeze and by the GBRT at Shoreline Park (see Figure 3). The projected sighting lines converge at a point about five miles from the camera. Hence the red-white light must have been very bright just to create the overexposed image even before the flashing, and the flashing must have been equivalent to having something like an aircraft headlight shining directly at the camera, except that no such headlight could change its intensity at the high rate of speed of the red-white light, which changed by large amounts in less than 1/30 sec. During this sighting the sky was clear, and there was a southwest wind at about four mph with a temperature of 72 deg.

It is of interest to note, in a historical context, that the basic characteristics of this light are similar to the red light seen by a scientist who reported the sighting to the University of Colorado UFO study. It is featured as case 10 of the Condon Report (also cited in Jacques Vallee's *Confrontations* [1990]). The man reported that while traveling in a car on a foggy evening he saw a very bright red light some distance from the road. He watched it for some number of seconds, after which it suddenly flashed a brilliant white and then faded. When it flashed it was so bright that its glare washed out the reflected light of his headlights from the road ahead.

There were two more sightings in April. During the evening of the 19th, the GBRT saw a green light moving erratically in the sky and then dropping downward over Pensacola Beach. Subsequently one member learned that nighttime sky divers often used green chemical light sticks attached to their legs so that the people on the ground can see them as they land in the surf. A diffraction-grating picture of the green light was taken and the pattern was compared with the diffraction pattern of a chemical light. The color green seemed identical. This sighting, along with one other similar green light sighting, is now considered explained.

The last April sighting occurred on the 23rd. It was, again, of the red light. The GBRT, on the pier at Shoreline Park, saw a red glowing object in the south-southwest at an elevation of about 10 degrees above the horizon. It was a constant red for about a minute, faded out, returned as red, then turned white and disappeared. The sighting duration was about a minute and a half. The sighting occurred during clear weather, but with some haze, and a north wind at about six mph.

Conclusion

The April sightings provided some interesting information about the unusual red light. The characteristics recorded on the videotape and recalled by the witnesses make it difficult to imagine any conventional phenomenon that could account for the light, including electrically powered lights or pyrotechnic device suspended by balloons, kites, or helicopters. The sighting on the ninth by the K Mart witnesses shows that the object they and the GBRT saw was of a substantial size. Unfortunately the glare of the brightness prevented the witnesses from seeing more details.

The April shower of sightings was followed by the blooming of 10 unexplained sightings in May, eight in June, 11 in July, and six in early August before the late August dry spell set in. Then in September a fourth phase started. There were 12 sightings in the first 23 days. As I recount in the earlier cited articles, during this period the GBRT members experimented with infrared film, diffraction gratings, and high-powered lenses. Results of the investigations of these sightings will be published elsewhere. ■

EDITORIAL — *continued from page 3*

real problems, as MIT physicist David Pritchard has written, in defining what a truly nonterrestrial artifact is. Still, let us take care not to let our rhetoric exceed our evidence.

If there were not already reason for caution, the growing numbers of abduction claims should give us pause. It would be as foolish to declare every claimant an authentic abductee as it would be to assume that every alleged UFO sighter spotted the genuine article. Abduction proponents can legitimately complain that those positing psychological explanations have overstated their case, but that ought not to lead us to believe that psychological explanations are inappropriate in every instance; see, for example, Basterfield's examination of an Australian case in *IUR*, March/April 1991. A CUFOS study, to be published in the upcoming issue of *JUFOS*, indicates that the psychological profiles of some (though by no means all) abduction claimants suggest they are prime candidates for aberrant mental experiences.

This should not surprise us, of course. After all, the abduction model has much to offer those seeking a model on which to hang fantasies of paranoia and personal violation. There was a time, back in the bad old days of the Cold War, when psychologically unstable persons believed Russian spies were persecuting them. There *were* real Russian spies, but counterintelligence and police agencies wisely did not give equal credence to every report of them. — *Jerome Clark*

The Gulf Breeze lights, continued

by Art Hufford

■■ **Art Hufford is president of Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON, Inc.**

November 11, 1987, marked the beginning of the Gulf Breeze, Florida, UFO flap, but unlike many other UFO flaps this one is still going strong more than four years later. The photographs that started the flap were, of course, those taken by Ed Walters. Despite continued attempts by debunkers and other critics to discredit Walters, our investigations for the Mutual UFO Network have yet to find any solid basis for rejecting Walters' photographs. We believe his photographs are authentic and that his story is a true account of what happened. The purpose of this article is not to dwell on the past, however, but rather to bring *IUR* readers up to date on what has been taking place since then.

Though Walters' close-encounter photo sessions ended on May 1, 1988, UFO-sighting reports have continued to come in from hundreds of witnesses. Some have reported seeing craft similar to those in Walters' photos, while others have reported other shapes and sizes, plus a multitude of nocturnal lights. But the most remarkable events began in November 1990.

At that time two MUFON field investigators, Anne and Bruce Morrison, began a nightly sky scan for UFOs. Because so many reports were coming in, they reasoned that they, too, would be able to witness a UFO. Their diligence soon paid off. Soon others joined the Morrisons, and the skywatches became routine nightly events. By September 1991 as many as 75 persons were attending these skywatches. Rarely did a week go by without at least one sighting. By the end of the year, our investigative team had recorded 103 UFO sightings.

What we have seen

Armed with binoculars, video cameras, still cameras, and telescopic lenses, we have been able to record a most remarkable display of lights in the night sky. The most common sighting consists of a bright, cherry-red light which slowly pulses over a one- to four-minute period, though this has varied from a few seconds up to nine minutes. Often these red-light sightings will begin or end with a much brighter or larger white ball of light.

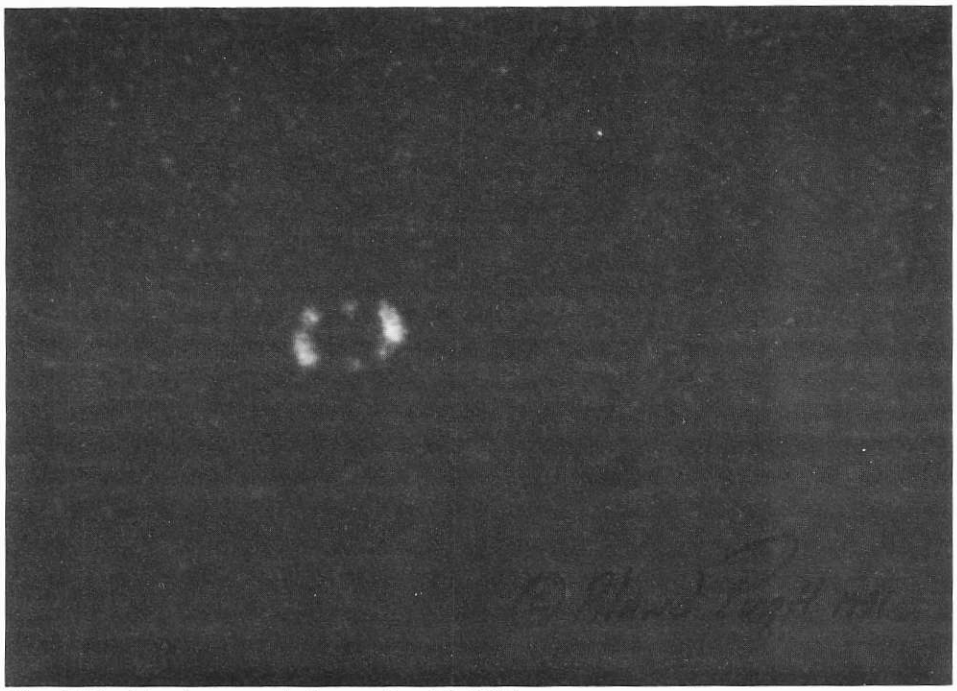
These lights move independent of wind direction, make no sound, have been either round or elliptical in shape, have often discharged smaller white lights, and have been unidentifiable. Nothing has ever been seen approaching or leaving the point of the sighting; rather the UFO suddenly appeared and then just as suddenly disappeared without a trace. In addition to MUFON investigators, the witnesses have included Navy, Air Force, and civilian pilots and two air traffic controllers; all of these witnesses agree that the UFOs we are seeing are not airplanes, helicopters, or flares.

Pulsing red lights are not the only UFOs the MUFON team has observed. Photographs from three of the more interesting sightings are included in this article. All three were taken with 35mm cameras using telescopic lenses; all were taken from the southwest end of the Pensacola Bay Bridge (near Gulf Breeze).

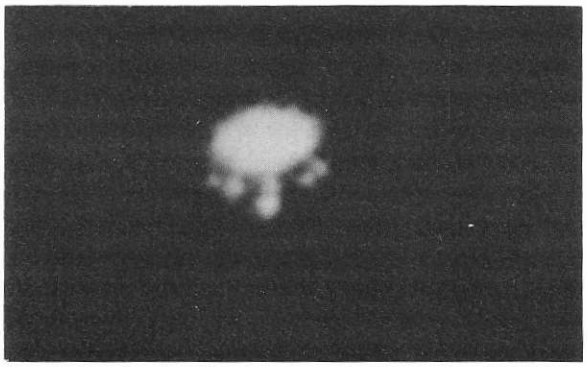
The first is one I took on June 20, 1991, in the company of 14 witnesses including seven MUFON field investigators. The photo that appears on the cover is the best of three I took that night of a bright white ball of light; the two rings of white light encircling the ball are unexplained and show up in all three photos. The estimated distance to the object in this photo was one mile. At this distance the UFO would have to be about 20 feet in diameter, based on the image diameter on the original 35mm negative. That night I was also using a diffraction filter, supplied by Bruce Maccabee. The color spectra from the UFO showed nothing unusual, according to Maccabee.

MUFON member Bland Plugh took the next photo on September 16, 1991. It was witnessed by 34 individuals, including 11 MUFON investigators and Maccabee. It shows a circular ring of eight amber lights. These amber rings of lights appeared six times in September and early October. The light emitted from these rings of lights was much lower in intensity and made photography much more difficult. Unexplained camera malfunctions and fogged film also frustrated some of our photographers. These rings of light also went through some interesting aerial maneuvers, such as rotating from a horizontal to a vertical orientation and, on one occasion, doing a 360-degree "barrel roll." Witnesses using binoculars reported the object also blocked out the light from stars as it moved along, suggesting the ring of lights was attached to an opaque object. It also made no sound and moved independent of wind direction.

The third photo here was taken by another MUFON investigator, Patti Weatherford, on November 5, 1991,



Bland Plugh's photograph, September 16, 1991



Patti Weatherford's photograph, November 5, 1991

using high-speed black-and-white film. The UFO this evening started out as the typical, pulsing red light which turned into a bright white light. Rather than fading out, however, it returned to the red mode and got larger as it appeared to move closer to the seven witnesses.

At this point the witnesses saw more than one red light appear with and above the original object. As shown in this photo, a ring of five smaller red lights was positioned above the elliptical red ring, and a sixth red light appeared to be centered above that. Because the original film was high-speed black-and-white film, all the lights in this photograph appear white against a black night sky.

Witnesses also reported seeing a dark disc shape as part of the red lights. The background sky was lighter that night from the glow of stadium lights at Gulf Breeze High School. Similarities in light arrangement on this UFO have reminded some persons of the UFOs in Walters' photographs, though this time all the light sources were red.

As of this writing the UFO sightings are continuing if at a slower rate. We have logged six sightings since December. ■

New books

Now available in the bookstores are two substantial contributions to the UFO literature. The long-awaited study by Dave Jacobs, *Secret Life* (288 pages, Simon & Schuster, $21.00), contains excerpts from the hypnotic regression sessions of 39 people who have vivid memories of their abduction experiences. Although his evidence is primarily anecdotal, it is powerful and seemingly consistent—unlike such protean legends as vanishing hitchhikers and choking Dobermans. With a foreword by Harvard professor John E. Mack.

Jacques Vallee's new work, *UFO Chronicles of the Soviet Union* (224 pages, Ballantine, $18.00), is a narrative travelogue of Vallee's conversations with Russian ufologists on such subjects as the Voronezh CE-3 (in reality the best-known case in a mini-wave), Tunguska, and the Russians' use of dowsing rods to detect variations in "biological fields"—in both UFO physical trace cases and in geological field studies.

—George M. Eberhart

What do sightings mean?

by David M. Jacobs

■■ **David M. Jacobs, Ph.D., associate professor of American studies at Temple University, is author of *The UFO Controversy in America* (1975) and *Secret Life*, a just-published study of the abduction phenomenon. An earlier version of this paper was presented at a November 1990 conference sponsored by CUFOS and the Santa Barbara Centre for Humanistic Studies.**

When Kenneth Arnold reported UFOs on that fateful day in June 1947, his sighting set in motion a view of the phenomenon that would continue for nearly the next half century. During that time UFO researchers focused on the central problems inherent in Arnold's sighting. They established methodologies for verifying the phenomenon in order to prove that the objects were anomalous, artificially constructed, and intelligently controlled. Those methods still dominate UFO research, but now, because of recently uncovered evidence in the abduction phenomenon, the very concept of the problem is undergoing a profound change, and the old methodologies may no longer be appropriate.

From 1947 on, UFO researchers did not address the question of *why* people saw and reported UFOs because they considered the answer obvious: witnesses were in a position to observe them when they appeared in the atmosphere. The witnesses then performed their civic duty by reporting their observations. On the surface there was certainly nothing illogical or mysterious about this. The pertinent questions that emerged at the beginning of UFO research necessarily revolved around the physical circumstances of the sightings and the individuals who experienced them.

Because the Air Force and the scientific community abrogated their responsibility to study UFOs systematically, the answers to the questions became the responsibility of individual researchers and private UFO organizations made up of lay volunteers. In the early years, proving the validity of the phenomenon necessarily became the most important goal of the research. Protocols had to be worked out to give researchers a reasonable assurance that they were investigating something anomalous not produced in the conventional environment. By trial and error the volunteer UFO researchers developed procedures to filter out those sightings they deemed to be of mundane cause. Given the controversial nature of the phenomenon, the slightest suspicion that the sighting was not anomalous was cause to discard the case. Even the number of times that a witness had a UFO sighting became grounds for suspicion.

The nature of sightings

Early on, investigators found that the sighting of a UFO was a relatively random and uncommon occurrence. It seemed improbable that one witness would see more than one or two UFOs in his lifetime. Therefore conservative investigators assumed that anyone who claimed three or four sightings was probably lying or psychologically disturbed.

In time investigators worked out a system for judging the witnesses' credibility and sincerity. While a strong case could be garnered from an average person who sighted a UFO, it was even better if the person was a "trained observer." Members of the armed forces, pilots, police officers, lawyers, physicians, scientists, clergymen, and the like were prized for their supposed integrity and truthfulness. Thus the strength of a case rested powerfully upon the credibility of the witnesses.

It was even stronger if more than one witness existed. Independent multiple-witness cases were best because then others could verify the details of the case, as long as the observers were not in collusion with each other. In theory, the strongest possible sighting would happen at a convention of clergymen who did not know each other, who were standing at different locations observing the object from different angles in broad daylight, and who then all independently reported the sighting without knowing that the other witnesses had also done so.

The relative distance of the witness to the UFO was also a cause for study and suspicion. The closer a witness was to a UFO, the less opportunity for error in identification. But in the 1950s low-level sightings were rare, and the possibility always existed that the witness might be inventing the tale. Presumably, researchers reasoned, high-level sightings were more credible than the low-level ones. The conservative National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), for instance, preferred high-level sightings. It was cynically joked in the late 1960s that the ideal headline for a current NICAP publication was "Engineer Sees Light in Sky."

But over the years it became obvious that the high-level sightings contained a high level of error in identification; it was easy to mistake a light in the sky for a wide variety of other things. And, even if unidentified, the amount of information to be gleaned from these reports was small: duration, movement, location, color, and sounds. As a result researchers began to concentrate on the low-level sightings.

Low-level sightings became more important for validating the existence of UFOs because they presented less opportunity for error in identification and contained more data than the high-level sightings. If witnesses reported an object at treetop level close enough to throw a rock at, then it was automatically not a meteor, a cloud, the moon, or whatever. These sightings also contained much more information than the high-level reports. Witnesses could describe the details and intricacies of the object's outside shell and component parts. Researchers could study the UFOs' effects on animals, plants, soil, electrical and mechanical devices, and human beings. Many important studies (for example Ted Phillips' *Physical Traces Associated with UFO Sightings* [1975] and Mark Rodeghier's *UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference* [1981]) were published about low-level sightings, greatly increasing our knowledge of the phenomenon. Furthermore, because of the greater assurance that the data were valid, low-level sightings could help discern the UFOs' purpose. Perhaps they were learning the lay of the land, exploring, or testing.

Theories

The location of the sightings became one of the most important areas of study, and it contributed to some of the earliest theorizing about the motives and purposes of UFOs. Early on, researchers had noted that sightings sometimes clumped together in specific locations. Perhaps there was a pattern to this. In one of the most ambitious of the location studies, French researcher Aimé Michel, author of *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery* (1958), tried to show that UFO sightings were linked to enormous grid patterns around the world. Eventually location sightings became linked with the wave phenomenon as investigators attempted to find patterns connecting periodicity with time and location as if they were a naturally occurring phenomenon. Other researchers spent time trying either to critique or to validate these claims.

Investigators also discovered that witnesses reported more UFOs in secluded areas than in urban or heavily populated areas. From this it was surmised that the intelligences behind UFOs did not want to be seen by large numbers of people. It was possible that "they" wanted to prevent panic, or perhaps they desired secretly to explore the planet without interference. No one knew the reasons.

Furthermore, in the 1950s UFOs were seen near military bases, including highly sensitive atomic installations. In the mind set of the Cold War, it seemed possible that the objects were examining our defenses and military capabilities. This was easily understandable if the UFO occupants were contemplating an invasion of the earth. Conversely, theoreticians assumed, UFO occupants might fear to show themselves because human beings were aggressive and the occupants did not want to be on the receiving end of hostile action. This explanation seemed all the more plausible when numerous stories of jet fighters firing on UFOs surfaced during the 1950s and 1960s.

Unanswered questions

After 20 years of reports, investigators had acquired a sizeable knowledge of sightings and a database of thousands of cases. J. Allen Hynek called it the "embarrassment of riches." The impetus behind virtually all of the studies was to supply evidence that the phenomenon was indeed anomalous. Thus, while knowledge about the nature of UFOs was of ultimate importance, investigators were forced to work with what they had most of: data from the sightings of the outside shells of the objects. That fit in perfectly with the task of convincing the public and the scientific community of the legitimacy of the subject. Questions about the reasons why the UFOs were being seen or who was in them could not be answered. In a sense that made investigations all that more easy. It tended to keep UFO research conservative because it did not force researchers to address the questions of the UFOs' motives—the sorts of questions that would most likely make researchers vulnerable to further ridicule.

And there was the question of the UFO-sighting waves, in which reports increased dramatically over a relatively short period of time. The UFO waves of 1947, 1952, 1957, 1965-67, and 1973 contained another set of puzzling questions. Why did great numbers of witnesses begin to see UFOs? Why and how did waves start? Why did they end? Did media publicity generate waves? The obvious answer to what creates waves was that more people simply began to see UFOs and then report them. But if this were true, it still begged a basic question: why were there more of them to be seen? Researchers could not answer these questions.

There was also something else quite mysterious about the kinds of sightings that witnesses reported. In 1947 and 1952 the vast majority of the sightings were of high-level objects seen both in the daytime and at night. Witnesses made few reports of UFOs on or near the ground, even fewer humanoid reports, and no abduction reports. Furthermore, these early waves contained a large number of sightings of multiple UFOs flying in groups and in formation. The Arnold sighting was one. The Great Falls, Montana, Trementon, Utah, and Washington, D.C., sightings fit this pattern as did hundreds of others. But by 1957 the number of sightings of groups of UFOs began to decline as reports of UFOs closer to the ground increased.

For example, the famous Levelland, Texas, sightings were mainly ground-level, as were many others of the late 1950s and 1960s. Moreover, the number of sightings of multiple UFOs flying in formation declined considerably.

As they studied these later reports, investigators began to notice anomalies they could not understand. Witnesses claimed that they would see a UFO simply materializing out of the air or dematerializing into nothing. Some witnesses even reported a mysterious psychic link between the UFO and them at the time of the sighting. What did this mean? The sighting data were not providing answers to these anomalies. Nor were they providing answers to the fundamental questions about the UFOs' motivation and purposes.

The occupants

By the 1960s not only were witnesses reporting the observation of more sightings close-up and at ground level, but humanoid sightings were increasing as well. The occupant reports appeared to be a logical outcome of the sightings. If people saw the outside of the objects and the objects appeared to be under intelligent control, then it was logical that beings would be inside the objects. There had been a rash of humanoid reports in France in 1954, but American investigators did not have the opportunity to investigate them and therefore could not judge their quality and content.

But by the 1960s investigators increasingly turned their attention to the American reports. The humanoid sightings were sensational and created a storm of controversy within UFO organizations. The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) accepted the best-investigated cases as legitimate, and Coral and Jim Lorenzen wrote one of the first books on such reports, *Flying Saucer Occupants* (1967). To NICAP, however, humanoid sightings seemed perilously close to the 1950s charlatan-contactees' yarns that had disrupted the UFO community and brought so much ridicule to serious research. As late as 1969 NICAP could still pose the question "Are There UFO Occupants?" Eventually the number of cases grew too large to ignore, and NICAP accepted these reports as legitimate. The new Midwest UFO Network devoted even more attention to them by forming a humanoid-study panel in 1973.

The occupant sightings appeared to give more information about the purposes of the intelligence behind the UFOs. Early occupant sightings seemed to bear this out. Aliens were seen picking up rocks, stripping bark off trees, picking flowers and putting them in sacks, and so on. They apparently were interested in flora of the environment. Sometimes a witness would report beings carefully inspecting him as he stood there paralyzed. The occupants appeared to be, according to a 1969 NICAP study (*UFOs: A New Look*) by Richard Hall, Isabel Davis, and Ted Bloecher, mainly curious and cautious. But the occupant sightings also contained anomalies. Often witnesses would observe occupants and then turn their heads away for a second or two only to find UFOs already flying away. Calling this the problem of "instant entry," investigators wondered about how the occupants could get into their UFOs so extraordinarily fast. Though a minor consideration when investigating the enormity of an occupant sighting, the instant-entry problem suggested the occurrence of events that were unknown or unperceived.

Along with the occupant reports a puzzling new category of cases appeared: the abductions. Starting in America in 1961 with the Hill case and continuing until the present time, their numbers steadily increased over the decades. The vast majority of UFO investigators did not know what to make of them.

New questions

The attempt to classify was a natural outgrowth of the growing information researchers had about the phenomenon. By the mid-1970s tens of thousands of sightings had been investigated. CUFOS had begun a computerization program which included over 75,000 sightings. As the sighting reports accumulated and the database grew, investigators also learned an enormous amount about the physical characteristics of the objects. Researchers mounted studies on how long sightings lasted, how close witnesses were to them, how many witnesses there were, the frequency of sightings according to day, week, and month, and so on. Investigators published many excellently researched data about the effects of UFOs on power lines, radios, television, automobiles, vegetation, soil, animals, and humans.

The extraordinarily large number of reports itself became an object of speculation, as did the perplexing problem of the absence of formal contact. What was the purpose of these sightings, if any? Contemplating the volume of reports, Jacques Vallee was one of the first UFO investigators to address the question of *why* people saw UFOs. He theorized that the sightings themselves had meaning beyond the obvious, that they represented a sort of conditioning process for humanity so that the idea of contact between species would not be too shocking for humans. In this concept the extraterrestrial intelligence behind the UFOs had the best interest of humanity at heart and was benevolently trying to ease us into contact presumably to lessen its societal and psychological shock.

The mass of reports also puzzled Hynek. He argued that the great number of sightings militated against a nuts-and-bolts extraterrestrial phenomenon; it was absurd to think that intelligent beings would traverse the vast expanse of the galaxy many thousands of times simply to fly about and avoid formal contact with earthlings. In a similar vein Carl Sagan said that the large number of sightings suggested that the phenomenon was conventional. He contended that it is reasonable to assume that if only one in 10,000 launches from another planet results in contact with us, the enormous number of sightings in the

world violates the best estimate of the number of technologically based planets in the galaxy; thus the extraterrestrial hypothesis must be untenable.

As the great volume of sightings continued, UFO researchers began to change the target of their investigations. By the mid-1970s most high-level lights-in-the-sky sightings of any type had ceased to be of major importance in UFO research. Low-level UFOs, ground-level UFOs, trace cases, occupant cases, and even some abduction cases were attracting intense interest. Now the dominant UFO events were the Hill case, Socorro, Dr. X, Hickson and Parker, Travis Walton, Mona Stafford, Sgt. Moody, and others. Indeed, the Hill case became the best-known UFO case of its generation. The number of sightings declined after the enormous 1973 wave. Though sighting reports continued steadily, the national wave mysteriously disappeared, and the regional wave took its place.

The abduction phase

By the 1980s the goal of establishing the validity of the phenomenon for the public and the scientific establishment had lost some of its urgency. In spite of years of strenuous effort on UFO researchers' part, the scientific community remained largely indifferent to the subject. But by now the UFO community itself contained many scientists and scholars, and as a result UFO research was more and more directed inward. Researchers built their own scientific and scholarly community which included an established body of data, assumptions, and methodology. It was at this time that the abduction phenomenon began to push its way into the consciousness of the UFO-research community. Its systematic study resulted in the winding-down of the first, or sighting, phase of UFO research, and a new phase of research began.

Abductions called for new investigation and research techniques which were different from those applied to sightings. With abductions, researchers have no need to call airports to find out if planes were in the vicinity or to track down errant balloons or to have a star map handy or to examine the lay of the land. The sighting-classification systems were of no use. The reports were almost always from single individuals, and corroborating testimony was difficult to gather. The witnesses often had no evidence to give other than a fantastic story. Unlike the clear remembrance of sightings, the quickly forgotten abduction accounts were often couched in dream material, screen memories, "ghost" sightings, out-of-body experiences, and the like. To recover the memories, researchers often had to resort to hypnosis, with its attendant problems. Furthermore, the abduction events may have had a powerful impact on a person's private life—something UFO researchers had little experience or expertise in handling. Nevertheless abduction cases have transformed UFO research from an external, partly geographical study into an internal, participant/victim-based study.

Researchers who have tried to make the transition to abduction research have found it difficult. Some UFO-abduction researchers are sometimes still tied to the old ways of thinking. They had to learn a completely new way of investigating—a way for which many were unsuited because it consisted of delicate and sensitive questioning techniques which often involved highly personal answers.

Furthermore, the testimony of the abductees often seems contradictory to the inexperienced researcher, who may then reject such testimony. Some investigators, unaccustomed to the new kind of abduction evidence, have automatically dismissed promising abduction cases imbedded in sighting reports because they have not fully understood what they are investigating. It is most probable that many abduction accounts lie hidden in every experienced UFO investigator's casebook.

Yet despite these problems competent abduction researchers have uncovered a wealth of new data. Reports of what happens inside the objects—the aliens' behavior, motivations, goals, and purposes—began to be revealed in the abductees' accounts. For the first time investigators uncovered the secrets of the UFO sightings, and great amounts of information had to be analyzed and made sense of.

A view of the invisible

But the new data also contained anomalies that were difficult to believe. Researchers would sometimes receive seemingly ridiculous reports from abductees who said they are transported directly through closed windows, walls, and ceilings. Investigators at first simply ascribed this to confabulation or imagination. It was, of course, impossible for solid matter to pass through other solid matter. Yet abductee after abductee would say the same thing. Investigators would ask specifically about opening the window, opening the door, or even closing it behind them. The abductees were adamant that the window or door remained closed. Some investigators deliberately asked leading questions in hypnosis to force the abductee to admit that he was not actually floating through the closed window or wall. In each of the cases the abductee insisted that even though it made no sense, he thought he was being floated directly through the solid object. Often an abductee would, at the end of the session, look up to the investigator and ask plaintively, "Has anybody else ever reported that?" If these reports were to be believed, then it indicated that solid matter was manipulated in some way to allow for this apparently physically impossible event.

When the abductees pass through to the other side of the solid object, they often float upward into a waiting UFO. The UFO might be quite a distance from them—a mile or so, or it might be just outside their window, easily visible by persons who happen to be on the outside. Logically, investigators should have received a great many—perhaps thousands—of these reports, even before

they knew about the abduction phenomenon. But this has not been the case, and these events are almost never reported by potential outside observers. Because abductions occur at any time, darkness and time of day have nothing to do with the nonreporting phenomenon.

This leaves researchers with primarily two conclusions: either the abduction did not occur at all, or the abductee and the UFO are rendered "unseeable" during this phase of the abduction. Though the concept of invisibility is steeped in ridicule and science fiction, researchers must go where the evidence leads, even though they might not want to go there, and this evidence leads directly to the technological phenomenon of invisibility. If invisibility emerges as the salient aspect of this phase of the abduction, then it has great ramifications not only for abductions but for the sighting phenomenon as well.

Not only may invisibility be helpful to the abductors in transporting the victims to and from the UFO, it may also serve to preserve secrecy. In abductions the maintenance of the clandestine nature of the operations is apparently extremely important. The abductors safeguard secrecy both externally and internally. Externally, secrecy is maintained by controlling the environment in which the abduction will take place. Thus, being alone at night, either at home or in an automobile, is the most common environment for an abduction. People who are nearby are "switched off"—rendered unconscious or immobile while the abduction takes place—so that they will not witness it. If the targeted individual is in a small group of people, they might be split off from it and then abducted while the others either do not miss the victim or are themselves switched off. No one in their immediate vicinity will be able to tell what happened, and the surreptitious nature of the event will be maintained. So far investigators have no cases of someone's being abducted directly from the stands of a sports events, from a large, busy work place, or any other crowded scene.

Internally, secrecy is preserved by the abductee's quickly forgetting the events that have taken place, though the victims still may have the feeling that something odd occurred to them. If the abductee was taken from his bed, he may have remnants of the event buried in his dreams. Screen memories of seeing animals or ghosts may form in the abductee's mind and deflect the reality of the situation. Even when abductees get the opportunity to remember and describe what has happened to them, they often feel guilty because they think they are in some way not supposed to talk about it. A few seconds after returning from the event, the witness may go to his window and see a strange light flying away high in the sky. The abductee may remember only that he saw a UFO. Investigation has shown that most, if not all, of the abductees' sightings, regardless of type (high- or low-level), have been indications of abduction activity. Therefore, even though abductees may report a UFO sighting, the abduction itself remains "invisible," and the secrecy is maintained.

The sighting reconsidered

Furthermore, if invisibility is an integral part of the abduction for the maintenance of secrecy, then certain things immediately follow. First of all, geographic location may be less important than researchers have thought. If a UFO can be invisible, then it does not matter in what geographic area an abductee resides. It does not matter whether the abductee lives in the city or the country, an isolated or crowded environment, an apartment or a single house, New York City or the Permian Basin in Texas. Maps filled with push pins showing the latest UFO sightings may simply not be relevant. If this is true, it negates the value of wave predictions in combination with location studies.

Moreover, UFO researchers' assumption that UFO sightings are random in nature must be called into question. Since the abduction phenomenon appears to be purposeful, focused, planned, and therefore not random, then it is entirely possible that a great many single-witness, and some multiple-witness, sightings of low-level and high-level UFOs may signify abduction events for those witnesses, even though they may not be aware that an abduction occurred.

Furthermore, the meaning of the frequency of an individual's UFO sightings must now be reconsidered. A person may have not consciously remembered sightings during his lifetime and still have had many abduction experiences. Or a witness may have UFO sightings on a regular basis, and rather than being considered evidence of unreliability, it is probably a sure indicator of abduction experiences.

The mysterious materialization and dematerialization cases about which UFO investigators have theorized for many years now can be seen in a new light. They may well be sightings of objects that are coming out of invisibility or going into invisibility. Some of these sightings may have indicated the abduction of the witness who reported the event.

Similarly, mysterious cases from the past can be looked at from a new perspective. For example, in light of our knowledge of abductions, the famous Dr. X case can now be reexamined. Dr. X's baffling testimony about his behavior during and after his sighting, his testimony about floating up to the ceiling, having his physical problems cured, adopting a new outlook on the cosmos, and the appearing of mysterious rashes on his and his son's bodies can now be seen as relatively typical indications of abduction activity.

Puzzling aspects of the occupant phenomenon such as the problem of instant entry can now be thought about more systematically. Did the occupants really enter into the object so fast, or were there other, perhaps abduction-related, events, forgotten by the witness, that have allowed him to think instant entry was accomplished in a few

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Implants

by Keith Basterfield

■■ **Keith Basterfield, a frequent contributor to *IUR*, is the research officer for UFO Research Australia.**

Over the last few years research into abductions has become more and more complex, and divergent viewpoints concerning the cause of the abduction phenomenon have emerged. Some researchers maintain that these events are occurring in a physical sense. Others have argued that psychological explanations should be considered before we move on to more exotic interpretations.

One aspect which has intrigued numerous abduction researchers has been the search for a nonterrestrial implant in the body of a human being. In looking into this topic I was unable to find an article bringing together various aspects of this subject—thus this article.

Four examples will illustrate the type of account which has been circulating. In his *The UFO Casebook* (1989) Kevin D. Randle tells of a woman who observed an object in a cornfield while driving alone. The car engine stalled, and its lights ceased to function. A period of time was missing, and later the woman, whom Randle calls Susan Ramstead, was hypnotized. A typical abduction scenario emerged. Later she started to recall dreams of the aliens standing nearby and watching her. She described experiencing an unusual nose bleed. She remembered that a needle was directed to her nose, followed by pain and a stuffy nose.

Abductees have themselves described their experiences. In a magazine article (*UFO Universe*, April/May 1991) Christa Tilton recounted disturbing dreams in which UFOs and gray aliens appeared. Under regression hypnosis a lifetime of abductions emerged. She recalled an occasion during which she was medically examined. A capsulelike device was inserted into her abdomen, and a sharp "something" was placed into her left ear.

During one of Whitley Strieber's episodes involving the "visitors," he reported (in *Communion* [1987]) seeing "an extremely shiny, hairlike needle mounted on a black surface . . . . They proposed to insert this into my brain."

Lorne Goldfader, director of the UFO Research Institute of Canada, started up that organization in 1989. In early 1991, according to his own account, he was "implanted." He noted an itching or burning sensation in his right thigh. This was followed by what seemed to be electrical pulsations. Neither an x-ray nor an ultrasound examination revealed any abnormality, Goldfader told me in 1991.

On what scale is this said to be going on? Dr. Richard Neale, Jr., who has investigated a large number of abduction events wrote, according to Raymond E. Fowler (in *The Watchers* [1990]): "Many abductees have described a thin probe with a tiny ball on its end being inserted into the nostril-usually on the right side." Neale didn't clarify what he meant by "many," but in 1988 John Lear was making claims that aliens were implanting abductees, who were as many as 10 percent of the American population.

What is said to have been implanted? One of the most experienced abduction researchers, Budd Hopkins, stated that "a long, thin needle is injected up the nostrils, into the ear or into the socket below the eyeball. This needle has a tiny ball on the end. The ball is usually described as being around two or 2 1/2 millimeters in diameter, often with little filaments extending from it." Thomas E. Bullard, in his massive comparative study, the two-volume *UFO Abductions: The Measure of a Mystery* (1987), of some 300 abduction report texts, noted 12 cases where implants had been reported. He wrote, "Implants are tiny objects shaped like beads, perhaps with burrlike projections, or elongated and needlelike slivers."

During the lengthy investigations of Betty Andreasson's complex account of multiple abductions, she recalled that a long, flexible needle was inserted into her nose to retrieve an object the size of a BB with tiny wires sticking into it. Apparently inserted into her body in 1950 when she was in her teens by a long needle, it entered her through her eye socket, according to Fowler's *The Watchers*.

Why?

Given that alien implants are said to have been introduced into us, for what purpose are they placed there? A fairly consistent, small range of opinions exists. In an interview with Jerome Clark (November/December 1988 *IUR*) Hopkins commented, "We assume they may be locator devices of some sort or maybe controlling or monitoring devices." Dr. Neale summarized views thus: "Many researchers believe that alien technology is being used to insert an implant into this area for future tracking of the individual." Christa Tilton felt, "It could have been some

sort of implant used for communications and monitorization."

Fowler speculated, "Is it possible that such a device was just one of several monitoring devices planted within abductees?" American psychologist Edith Fiore, in discussing unusual nose bleeds in her *Encounters* (1989), suggested, "These may be due to insertion of tracking devices." Meanwhile John Schuessler reported the work of an unnamed Kansas researcher who suggested that implants are for monitoring and communication. Finally, Bullard added, "What implants do remains unknown, but the hints we have suggest tracking or control electrodes."

So the consensus is that an implant is a locator, a controlling, a monitoring, or a communications device or some combination of these four. A few cases have been reported where both insertion and apparent retrieval have been witnessed in the same individual. Fowler reports on Andreasson's implant inserted at age 13 and retrieved at age 30, while Bullard reports on the case of "Phillip Osborne" inserted at age 6 and retrieved at age 20. What these types of cases imply for the purpose of implants is not explored in the literature.

Have any implants been medically detected?

The search for the smoking implant

American truck driver Joe Turner recounted a 1980 abduction (as reported in *MUFON UFO Journal*, March 1980). Though he believed an object had been implanted into his shoulder, no abnormality showed up on x-rays.

In 1988 Hopkins spoke of four individuals who had undergone magnetic resonance imagery (MRI) scans where the resultant printouts showed ball-like objects up near the optic nerves.

Strieber's Communion Foundation undertook a magnetic resonance imaging program. In its Spring 1989 issue Strieber's *Communion Letter* editorial claimed, "All four of the people scanned so far have shown anomalies consistent with their own predictions based on their visitor experiences." Two who reported needle intrusions had nasal polyps or malformations. Two other needle intrusion individuals had a discolored circular area in their pituitary glands.

In an interesting alternative hypothesis to the ETH, Martin Cannon stated (*MUFON UFO Journal*, October 1990) that he had "personally viewed a strange, opalescent implant within the ear canal of an abductee." In the same article he also asserted that Lancaster, California, hypnotherapist Miranda Park had "viewed such anomalies in abductee MRI scans." Cannon, in a startling reference, cites the case of a Swedish individual, Robert Naeslund, who had an intercranial implant which was not only detected on x-ray but retrieved by a surgeon. Missing time and a nosebleed were said to have occurred. No alien abduction report was involved in this instance, however. Naeslund was said to be a human mind-control victim. This provocative lead surely merits a detailed follow-up.

More recently, a 1991 conference in Philadelphia, sponsored by researcher David M. Jacobs, featured three presentations on potential implants. Two of the implants were reportedly organic, but the third seemed to be manufactured. This object was described as small, a thin piece of wire with loops on the end. It was said to be composed of mainly carbon, aluminum, and oxygen.

In a personal communication Chicago researcher Sheldon Wernikoff related details to me of a local case. A woman had undergone an MRI to locate the cause of diagnosed chronic back pain. Her radiologist described an unidentified internal object but told her that some five percent of all patients exhibited this, and it wasn't the cause of the back pain. Wernikoff reported that a New York physician conducted scans of a dozen abductees but found nothing unusual.

Have any implants been recovered and examined? Psychotherapist John Carpenter, in the *MUFON 1991 International UFO Symposium Proceedings*, claimed, "At least three such objects have been inspected under electron-scanning microscopes by physicists at reputable institutes . . . . The objects remain unidentified by experienced lab personnel." Unfortunately, he gave no further details such as who, where, and when.

John Schuessler, one of the few people writing in detail about the implant question, reported in an undated issue of his newsletter, "A very interesting laboratory analysis of an implant was presented at the Treat II conference. No bizarre claims were made, but very detailed laboratory analysis results were presented." No proceedings for Treat II have yet been issued, unfortunately. In the next issue of the newsletter Schuessler reported attending the 1990 MUFON Symposium at which he met an individual who shared with him the result of an analysis of an object from a man's nose. Again no details have been released for peer review.

On a negative note, Schuessler (*MUFON UFO Journal*, July 1991) commented about a man who had a nasal passage x-ray of a suspected implant. It turned out, however, to be a "marker" used in the x-ray process.

One of the most openly discussed cases of a recovered implant has been that of Richard Price of Troy, New York. He was originally abducted in 1955, and an implant in his penis came to the surface of the skin in 1989. Cylindrical in shape, the object was 1 by 4 mm in size. The implant was given to a professor at a "major northeastern university," Antonio Huneeus wrote in a 1991 issue of *UFO Universe*. Huneeus states it could be "divided in three components: an amber colored interior, a white coating and at least six small appendages." The covering is 90 percent carbon, 3 percent oxygen and 10 percent tantalum. Other sources reported that the analyst was David E. Pritchard of the Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Pritchard submitted a paper, titled "Physical Analysis of Purported Alien Artifacts," to the Treat II conference.

I have been involved with an apparent x-ray confir-

mation of an implant. During an in-depth investigation into a complex, life-long account of abductions involving multiple abductions (see my "An Australian Abduction," March/April 1991 *IUR*), the woman involved, "Susan," told me of her implants in her upper mouth. In 1990 Susan revisited a dentist for the first time in 10 years and in the course of treatment, an x-ray was taken of her upper mouth. Her dentist confirmed to me that the x-ray showed two unusual objects—like straight pieces of metal—embedded in the upper gum, or bone beneath her nostrils. He told me he had never seen anything like them before and was unable to explain them.

Susan was then referred by this dentist to have a full face x-ray. This larger and more defined x-ray showed nothing abnormal present. Later, both x-rays were given to an independent, experienced dentist and his radiographer. They concluded that the "implants" were an artifact of the x-ray process and not something actually in the mouth. As an addendum they added that nine out of 10 dentists would have been fooled.

Origins

Where did the implant idea first appear? In reviewing the beginning of this aspect of the UFO phenomenon, I arrived back in the late 1970s. At that period American researcher Paul Bennewitz was looking into an abduction case on behalf of APRO. The witnesses were a woman and her son whom Dr. Leo Sprinkle later hypnotized. Under hypnosis the woman told of a memory she had of a "steel plate" put into her left brain for "their protection" (Linda Moulton Howe, *An Alien Harvest* [1989]). The case was set in the context of the broader Bennewitz saga. Bennewitz became convinced that he was monitoring electromagnetic signals which extraterrestrials used to control abductees.

Do Bill Moore's 1989 revelations of the intense USAF Office of Special Investigation's disinformation campaign relating to Bennewitz raise the possibility that implant lore was also part of this disinformation campaign?

Where to go from here? Some researchers would agree that it is only a matter of time before someone detects, analyses, and proves the existence of an artificial alien implant in a human being. Indeed, in his 1988 interview with Clark, Hopkins, talking of implants and MRI scans, stated, "I'm confident that within the next six months we're going to find many of these turning up on printouts."

In conducting this review, I find more questions than answers. Just when did the classic nasal intrusion first occur? When and where was it first reported? In the late 1970s? Did any one researcher launch the idea? Do implants feature in British or European abductions? Why has no one yet published a copy of lab results which are known to exist? The list of unanswered questions is lengthy. I hope this article may stimulate further research into this topic.

Readers who have information or ideas on the subject are encouraged to write the author at Box 302, Modbury North, South Australia 5092, Australia. ■

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Ufology in crisis: six views

by John William Lopez, Ed Komarek, Jr., Robert Wanderer, Warren Betts, Jack M. Greenfield, and Jim Veitl

At the conclusion of the editorial ("Ufology in Crisis: Two Views") in IUR*'s November/December 1991 issue, we invited readers to submit their own observations about our field's current problems. The remarks below are taken from some of the more interesting letters we received.* IUR *welcomes further comments, which will be published in our "Letters" section.*

Doomsday darkness

I, too, have become increasingly dismayed, frustrated, and alarmed at the turn ufology has taken in recent years. Though I consider myself to be a fairly open-minded individual, I must draw the line at stories of underground bases in New Mexico, vats of human parts, contactee cults, and aliens who have signed treaties with the government. The MUFON chapter in Los Angeles, where I live, seems to have turned into a forum for conspiracy fanatics. I walked out of the last meeting in disgust.

Where will this stop, and why has the field, in many circles, become so accepting of these outrageous claims? Do the conspiracy buffs truly believe the doomsday stories they are telling us, stories that only five years ago would have seemed entirely ludicrous? More importantly, why are so many of us appearing to buy them? And what, if anything, is this disinformation really covering up?

Perhaps it is a sign of how deeply discouraged, desensitized, and disillusioned we have become that we must invent (and believe) ever more lurid and tantalizing tales to keep our hopes and interests alive. A sad state of affairs indeed. It is no secret that our government hides much from us, about many things, but the line must certainly be drawn somewhere.

Recently *IUR* and *UFO* magazine have each printed pieces on this disturbing trend, and that's encouraging. Perhaps ufology can brake this runaway lunatic train before it goes hurtling over the cliff.

And yet Jerome Clark can still dismiss *Revelations* with a review ("Editorial," September/October 1991 *IUR*) that picks on minor inconsistencies (in his view) which have nothing to do with the main point author Jacques Vallee is trying to make. I concur with reader Michael A. Melton ("Letters," November/December 1991), and his opinion that Vallee is "perhaps the most profound thinker in ufology today." He is certainly one of the most sober and open-minded, realizing that if we are to make any real headway in this exploration at all, we will have to expand our current concepts of reality to accept a much deeper and far more complex view of what's so, rather than regress to the darkness of cultism and conspiracy.
— *John William Lopez*

Pawns in their game

It ought to be obvious to any informed observer that UFO investigators and the UFO community as a whole are only pawns in the hands of the military. Civilian UFO organizations are made up of volunteers and have budgets of no more than some thousands of dollars. The intelligence services are composed of trained professionals whose operations are funded in the billions.

Civilian operations would have little credibility if the military establishment did not want them to have credibility. Consider the Roswell case. It is turning out to be one of the most credible UFO incidents—but is that so because our own performance has been superior or because all those retired military personnel who have testified did so because they got authorization to speak?
— *Ed Komarek, Jr.*

No extraterrestrials, please

As I see it, the major hang-up in the UFO movement is the failure to separate what people see from how they interpret what they see. Without making this distinction, the UFO movement will never achieve scientific respectability or general public acceptance.

The problem starts at the very beginning of a sighting. Someone sees a light in the sky and calls it a "UFO" or at the least an "object." People investigating and writing about the sighting may refer to the "craft" or the "vehicle" or whatever. Sometimes there will be a group of lights that they call "windows."

I suspect that a substantial number of these "UFOs" are actually some unknown sorts of electromagnetic/geophysical/atmospheric/meteorological phenomena. Such researchers as Michael Persinger and Paul Devereux have suggested some of these possibilities, but UFO researchers generally are so committed to the extraterres-

trial hypothesis that they summarily reject any theory that does not fit in.

By continuing to insist on the extraterrestrial explanation, researchers avoid the possibilities that UFOs may be something simpler and less unlikely. We wind up with this repeated pattern where some exciting new case grabs public interest for a while, but then doubts begin to surface, and the case gradually fades from major attention, usually without ever being clearly resolved.

There are several additional problems, including the UFO movement's easy acceptance of the validity of hypnotic recall, the willingness to go along with questionable materials such as polygraph tests, and the rejection of psychological possibilities for abduction stories.

Ufologists should question witnesses in a way that separates what they saw from how they (and others) interpret what they saw. Until we have an authentic photograph of an unknown craft, let us ban the words "object," "craft," and "vehicle" from UFO reports. The term "anomalous light in the sky" presents a more accurate description. — *Robert Wanderer*

Opening up

Thank you, Jerome Clark, for your response in the editorial "Ufology in Crisis: Two Views."

It is unfortunate how skeptical scientists can be when it comes to the UFO phenomenon, and yet they are extremely open-minded in their beliefs in quarks, black holes, and the big bang which, like UFOs, have yet to be proven directly. As an astronomer, I have always found this part of science baffling.

If our high-tech science requires that we be completely open to theories concerning the above, why can't we be equally open to theories concerning the UFO phenomenon? —*Warren Betts*

A necessary innocence

That UFOs must or must not be real, or extraterrestrial, or benevolent, is a posture too many of us affect to protect our too-fragile egos. And yet other "mysteries" no doubt have the same effect on those who are emotionally drawn to the unknown and unknowable as do UFOs.

No one approaches UFOs, or any other religious or scientific conundrum, innocent of presuppositions. Moreover, it's only human to hunger for answers that suit our needs. Given those factors, will it be possible for us to resolve this mystery? Or does the apparent inability of even the best and the brightest to see this phenomenon objectively preclude a satisfactory resolution?

Belief systems can have no place in the investigation of UFOs, not unless we want answers that agree with our particular bias. Ufology already has an abundance of built-in belief systems. There's the belief system of the percipient or contactee; the belief system of the official body to which the report is made; the belief system of the scientific gurus who determine the validity of UFO reports. Starting the search for a solution to a riddle, with the solution, takes us down a circular road which returns us, safe and sound, to the place we started from. Only if we begin by saying, "I don't know; let's find out," is the spirit of honest inquiry possible.

Looking at this phenomenon as it has evolved over the last 45 years, one is reminded of its perhaps only truism: those certain UFOs are only what *they* say they are reveal themselves to be unready for the kind of discourse this subject so desperately needs. But how about those of us who admit our emotional, psychological, and intellectual limitations, who respect evidence even if it doesn't fulfill our expectations? Can we make our way through this jungle of mostly man-made illusions?

I like to think we can. But we must summon the necessary innocence, unlock the ability to just look and see what's actually there, approach the problem anew with fresh eyes, minds, and hearts.

How about a belated New Year's resolution? Let's try our damnedest never again to assume anything about the nature of UFOs. I for one resolve to be as objective as possible, regardless of the consequences. I also resolve to respect the other person's opinion even if it doesn't conform to mine. It's a tall order, but I'm going to try a hell of a lot harder than I have.

How about you, Carl Sagan? And you, Isaac Asimov? And you, Bruce Maccabee? And you, Budd Hopkins? And you, Jacques Vallee? And you, Philip Klass? And you, Jerome Clark? And all of the UFO-magazine editors, luminaries, and hard-science cognoscenti—will you join me?

And, most of all, you, dear reader. May I also have the pleasure of your esteemed company on this grand and glorious cosmic adventure? — *Jack M. Greenfield*

The last laugh

We human beings are impatient creatures with intense natural curiosity. We want to know. We will fabricate explanations when we don't know. Some current explanations of the UFO are merely a New Age recycling of ancient messiah/apocalypse mythologies. Myths do exercise a great influence on our collective lives; yet they remain exercises in knowing where there are only ambiguous, mostly unsubstantial supporting foundations for knowing.

Still, myth is valid at some deeper level of psychic reality. It is when we try too hard to categorize and systematize myth that we tend to oversimplify and misinterpret them. Interpreted superficially, a myth can become a fortress protecting us from hard questions. This robs us of our God-given critical faculties we might otherwise use to mature.

Those enclosed by such UFO myths seem unable to engage in dialogue concerning the many moral, spiritual, and scientific/secular implications inherent in the phenomenon. Instead, by explaining the UFO, they limit it. In limiting it, they destroy its challenge. Their explanation is old wine in new bottles. And none are any the wiser for it.

Nor should we, on the other hand, become so bound by hard and fast logic that we fall into equally easy, trite, reductionist, and physicalized interpretations.

People are seeing something, learning (knowing?) something, and expressing it for our benefit in the best way they can. We have to understand and study what they say in the best way we can.

The questions still remain: What is going on? What has been going on? What separate phenomena are taking place?

The UFO is maddeningly elusive on all counts. So far it appears to defy (defer?) explanation. All the years and man-hours devoted to it still leave us with no clear point of reference—no workable thesis. The UFO continues to be an enigma wrapped in a puzzled enclosed by a chuckle. That it may be laughing at us strikes me as a delightful notion.

Yet I am confident, given the enormous thoughtful energy applied to the events, that we may have the last laugh. If, in the meantime, we can avoid bludgeoning the meaning of the UFO to fit our own stupidities; if we can be patient with ourselves and one another; if we can stumble past our own foolishnesses; if we can open to a wider, more inclusive world view; if we can use our words and our sciences to expand our imaginations—if we can do all this, we can say we have studied and considered the UFO seriously.

If the UFO continues to force our minds occasionally to fall back on themselves—if the UFO encourages us to accept, as graciously as we can, a perplexed curiosity while we maintain a measured cautiousness concerning explanations—the UFO may yet give us the best gift of all—an education—in the fullest sense of the word. Reason enough to laugh. —*Jim Veitl*

Sightings — *continued from page 17*

seconds when in reality the witness may have collapsed a considerable period of time into what he consciously remembered as a few seconds? The psychic aspects of some UFO cases now seem completely related to the telepathic communication and mental procedures that are administered to abductees. When UFO witnesses claimed a "psychic" connection to an observed object, they may unconsciously be relating the residue of unremembered but typical abduction procedures. The psychic abilities that some abductees say they have developed must also be thought of in this light.

Sightings as abductions

The abduction phenomenon has opened up the door to the most important part of the UFO phenomenon: the study of alien purpose and motivation. We no longer have to rely only on evidence derived from sightings of the UFOs' external activities for our analysis of the internal intentions. For the first time the phenomenon can be studied from a behavioral and psychological point of view based on patterns of evidence from the inside.

Given the new information, we can now pose new questions about the familiar sighting phenomenon. Why have witnesses seen fewer high-level objects flying in formation? Why do sighting waves take place? What percentage of sightings mask abduction events? Are sighting waves evidence of increased abduction activity? If secrecy is the most important aspect of the abduction phenomenon and aliens have the ability to make themselves and their victims invisible, then the fundamental question arises: Why are there waves at all? Indeed, *why are there sightings at all?*

Now the common sighting takes on new meaning. The abduction phenomenon allows for new associations and assumptions to be brought into play for every sighting. The verities of the past can now be challenged because of the new evidence. We have achieved the answers to many of the most difficult questions of UFO research in the past 40 years, but the answers have brought forth a multitude of new questions. Now we must go back to the events of June 24, 1947, and ask the question: Why did Kenneth Arnold see the UFOs? At first we thought we knew the answer, but now we are not so sure. ■

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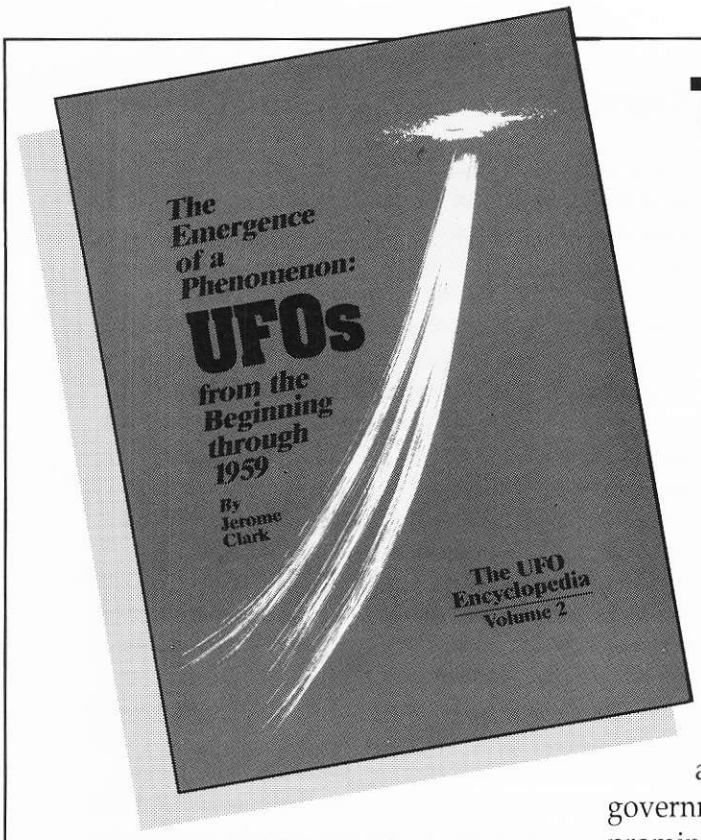

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